

Student Assembly report card

The Flat Hat releases its semesterly evaluation of SA Senators based on number of bills passed and attendance.

See SA page 3



Alumnus competes on 'Jeopardy'

Jeff Spoeri '87 contends in the "Jeopardy!" Tournament of Champions, which concludes tonight on ABC.

See 'JEOPARDY' page 6

The Flat Hat

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PRESIDENT UNDER REVIEW

College releases Nichol e-mail

Sullivan told Nichol in '06 that donor was angry, would withhold future gifts

By **AUSTIN WRIGHT**
Flat Hat News Editor

It was all a big misunderstanding.

That's how College President Gene Nichol is defending himself after College officials decided to release a controversial e-mail in which former College President

Timothy Sullivan warned Nichol that a \$12 million donation to the law school was in jeopardy two months before Nichol said he learned that the donation had been revoked.

College officials released the e-mail Tuesday night after they realized several unintended recipients had seen it. The College typically

does not release documents referring to specific donors, but both the donor and Sullivan consented to the release.

In the December 2006 e-mail, Sullivan said he had been working to secure a \$12 million gift to the law school from long-time donor James McGlothlin '62 J.D. '64. "I felt that we were making good progress and moving toward closure," Sullivan said. "But I talked to Jim who is very upset and angry about the Wren cross, and is not prepared to give any more money at this time."

The donation was included in the total of the College's seven-year fundraising campaign when Nichol announced in February that the campaign had reached its \$500 million goal.

It had been in the campaign total since 2005, when McGlothlin made the donation in writing, according to Nichol and Vice President for Development Sean Pieri.

Pieri could not be reached for comment yesterday. Sullivan, McGlothlin and Marshall-Wythe School of Law Dean Taylor Revley refused to comment.

In an interview last night with The Flat Hat editorial board, Nichol blamed the language of Sullivan's



ALEX HAGLUND — THE FLAT HAT

President Nichol has come under fire after the College released an e-mail that former President Sullivan sent him in December. Nichol says that the e-mail was unclear about whether a past donation was in question.

e-mail for his misinterpretation.

"I would not under any circumstance describe a gift committed, locked up, placed in the capital campaign a year and a half or two years earlier as one on which we are making progress toward closure," Nichol said. "Closure had to have happened before it was booked in 2005. That was the way I read that — that was a reasonable reading."

He said he thought Sullivan was seeking additional money from a donor the College has frequently turned to for support. He also said he tried, without success, to con-

tact the donor about his concerns.

Sullivan stated Oct. 24 that he communicated all that he knew about the donation to College administrators "in the clearest possible terms."

The fundraising campaign fell back below its goal when the \$12 million pledge was removed from the total after the lost donation became public in late February. Nichol said a letter written by McGlothlin that was forwarded to him Feb. 23 prompted him to investigate whether McGlothlin was revoking the prior pledge.

He said he learned Feb. 27 that

McGlothlin no longer intended to make the donation.

"I've tried to explain that I've had some misreadings, some miscalculations — I'm responsible for that," he said. "But they were not deceptions. They were not conspiracies."

Nichol's critics allege that he ignored information about the revoked donation to avoid further embarrassment during last year's Wren cross controversy. In an interview Wednesday, ShouldNicholBeRenewed.org spokesman Jim Jones '82 said that Nichol is either dishonest or incompetent.

The online group's petition calling on the Board of Visitors to fire Nichol currently has 698 signatures, while a Facebook group

See **E-MAIL** page 3

Student employees say they have flexible hours, good pay

By **ANNE FOSTER**
The Flat Hat

For a few students at the College, the start of a typical day involves walking to the Recreation Center at 5 a.m. — not to exercise, but to work.

But not all student employees wake up so early, and there are also several on-campus jobs with later shifts. Swem Library has shifts that last until 11 or 12 p.m.

"Hours are based on seniority," University Center Information desk employee Baiyina Atkinson '08 said. "You basically pick your schedule."

Students said that it is fairly easy to study while on the job.

"It depends on what shifts you get," Meg Dailey '08, a Rec Center employee, said. "[It's pretty easy] if you work in the morning or late at night."

Students who work for e-SWAT, Swem's information technology team, and at the UC information desk agree.

"It's hard because people are always stopping to ask questions," Atkinson said.

Ed Irish, director of the Office of Financial Aid at the College, said that there were many benefits to getting a job on campus instead of off campus, and Dailey agreed.

"If you have a test, on-campus employers might be more understanding," she said. "It's a lot more flexible [than off-campus work] because everybody's in the same boat."

While on-campus work may be more attractive than off-campus employment, off-campus jobs often pay more. Some older students who work off campus waiting tables, for example, say they can earn as much as \$8,000 per year. Irish pointed out that a wage like that can cover all living expenses for the year.

IT and research assistant wages are \$8 per hour, whereas box office staff and student assistants earn \$6 per hour. Resident assistants are also considered employees of the College.

"RAs get a free room and money on their debit card," Irish said.

However, difficulties may arise when trying to apply pay toward tuition.

"We really do not have any provisions for that," Irish said. "The billing system does not

coincide with getting paid."

This issue seems to be of little concern to student employees, since most students tend to use their wages for other costs.

"My parents said that I have to pay for gas, food and extra expenses," Brittany Bynum '10, a Rec Center employee, said.

Atkinson said that her income helps pay for clubs and other activities.

"You get a paycheck like everybody else and you can use it how you want to," e-SWAT employee Huy Ho '10 said.

Students do not have too many complaints about the double life of being a student employee.

"It's a nice way to spend your time," Ho said.



ALEX HAGLUND — THE FLAT HAT

Jason Wright '09, works at the pool tables in the UC.

Six-Year Plan released

By **SARAH OWERMOHLE**
The Flat Hat

The College's Six-Year Institutional Plan, submitted to the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV) Sept. 27, focuses on maintaining prior high faculty standards, having a diverse student body, keeping the student body small and keeping the College

affordable.

Changes proposed in the projection include enhancing research productivity, boosting quality and increasing external funding and revenue. In order to meet these goals, the College has created a financial plan that aims to increase external funding for the main campus by 5 percent, from roughly \$23 million to \$37.5 million, by 2014.

The Restructured Higher Education Financial and Administrative Act of 2005 requires that every two years public colleges and universities in Virginia submit a six-year plan including an academic plan, financial plan and six-year enrollment projections. The College first submitted a plan in 2005 and has made

See **RESEARCH** page 4

ELECTION 2008

SA joins with Rock the Vote

Pilchen proposes \$25,000 Rock the Vote concert

By **SAM SUTTON**
Flat Hat Staff Writer

The Student Assembly has partnered with the national non-profit organization Rock the Vote as part of its effort to register more students to vote in Williamsburg.

The partnership allows the SA to use the Rock the Vote logo and brand name in future registration drives.

SA President Zach Pilchen '09 said that the goal of the partnership is to build upon the successes of the SA's recent voter registration drive. He added that there will soon be a big push from the SA to increase the size of the student electorate.

"I'm hoping to get about \$25,000 [from] the SA senate to



COURTESY IMAGE — ZACH PILCHEN

An adaptation of the Rock the Vote logo, to which the SA now has rights.

get a big name band on campus for Williamsburg's first official Rock the Vote concert," Pilchen said in an e-mail to The Flat Hat.

"[The \$25,000] is something we would consider," senate Chairman Matt Beato '09 said. "But it is not something that is definite by any stretch of the imagination."

Sen. Brittany Fallon '11 of the Finance and Budget Committee said that funding a concert would

depend on the venue, the band, UCAB's involvement and "the mood FinCom's in at the time."

Pilchen did not offer specific plans for a potential concert. He only said that it should feature prominent performers.

Finance and Budget Chair Walter McClean '09 was unable to comment.

See **SA** page 4

NEWSINSIGHT

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The Flat Hat

‘Stabilitas et Fides’

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Corrections

In the Nov. 6 article titled, “‘Prime Tribe’ adds diversity to College,” The Flat Hat misspelled the name of Katarina Kochan ‘09.

The Flat Hat wishes to correct any facts printed incorrectly. Corrections may be submitted by e-mail to the section editor in which the incorrect information was printed. Requests for corrections will be accepted at any time.


Weather

Friday




High 55°
Low 35°

Saturday



High 59°
Low 42°

Sunday



High 59°
Low 37°

Source: www.weather.com

Quotes of the Week

“Having a William and Mary degree is a real feather in your cap.”
— “Jeopardy!” contestant and College alumnus Jeff Spoeri ‘87 on his College education.
See JEOPARDY page 6

News in Brief

The 21st annual WMHSMUN Conference begins today

The William and Mary High School Model United Nations (WMHSMUN) conference started today and will run throughout the entire weekend. WMHSMUN, sponsored by the International Relations Club at the College, will consist of over 1,300 high school students from all throughout the country.

The purpose of the conference will be to teach and inform high school students about global politics and international relation challenges that are affecting United States foreign policy today.

This year’s WMHSMUN marks the 21st year since the conference’s establishment and will take place in the University Center all weekend. Opening ceremonies start at 5:30 p.m. in the UC Chesapeake room.

Princeton Review administers survey to students

The Princeton Review is now accepting student testimonials from individuals at the College for their college review publications. The “Student Say” profiles that are compiled from student surveys like this at colleges and universities across the nation are featured on the organization’s website, PrincetonReview.com, and in their college rankings and information books.

The survey gives students the chance to voice opinions and perspectives on the social and academic aspects of life at the College, and are intended to be read by prospective students to “match themselves with the school most suited to their educational and personal needs,” according to the Princeton Review press release sent to the College Undergraduate Office of Admissions. Submissions will be accepted from students who log in with their school-issued e-mail address. The link to the survey is survey.review.com.

— by Isshin Teshima and Kara Starr

By the Numbers

262 million

The number of turkeys raised on farms in 2006, four percent more than in 2005. The turkeys are worth a total of 3.5 billion dollars and close to 10 percent of them were raised in Virginia.

54 percent

The increase in the number of long distance driving trips over the six-day period around Thanksgiving, according to the federal Department of Transportation. Around Christmas and New Year’s, the number of long-distance trips rises 23 percent above normal.

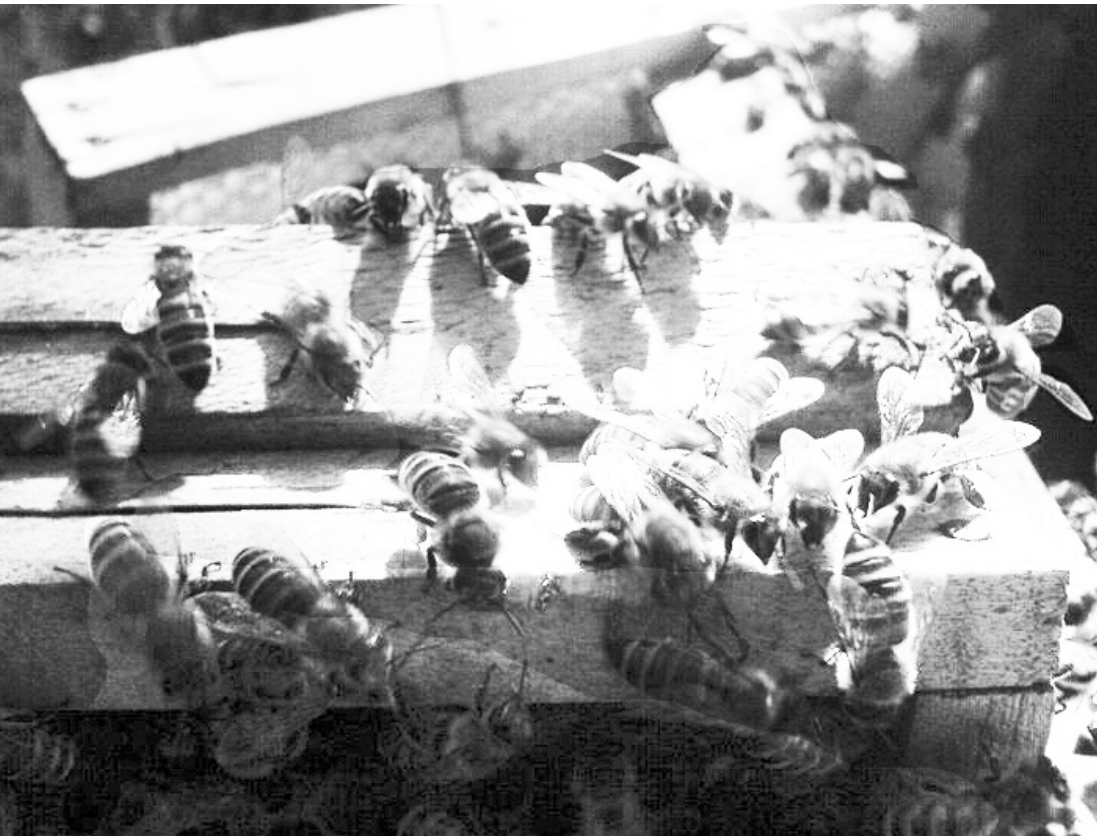
15

The number of homes that burnt down in 2002 due to improper use of turkey fryers, according Allstate insurance company.

3

The number of school days that students get off for Thanksgiving break. This has been the same since 2000.

— by Maxim Lott



COURTESY PHOTO — WIKIPEDIA COMMONS
Many homeowners and businesses may not notice a beehive in their home for months or even years.

BEYOND THE BURG

Univ. of Houston finds bee infestation in building

Officials decide to keep bees alive in nearby field instead of killing them

By ISSHIN TESHIMA
Flat Hat Insight Editor

Most people’s reaction upon discovering a beehive is to have them exterminated, but officials at the University of Houston are trying another approach.

University officials recently discovered a hive containing over 100,000 honeybees in the engineering building and, instead of killing the bees, decided to hire a beekeeper to transport the hive to a nearby wooded area.

“The first thing we said was this is not something where we’re going to go in there and shoot a lot of chemicals and kill them,” said Alex Alexander, the institution’s custodial and grounds director.

The bees were first reported when workers noticed a small group of the insects around the top back corner of the three-story building six months ago. After the bees were briefly sprayed with water, they disappeared for a time.

However, when honey started dripping from the bricks, the true size of the hive was revealed.

Although no one has reported being stung, the university decided not to take any chances with a hive of this size.

“You can imagine — you’re trying to take your exam and for whatever reason the bees decide they’re going to swarm,” Alexander said. “That kind of disruption, we couldn’t allow.”

The university determined that killing the bees was not an option; the insects are dependent upon to pollinate many of the trees and flowers throughout the 550-acre campus in downtown Houston. In addition, considering a declining bee population that has puzzled many researchers throughout the United States, the university did not want to contribute to the trend.

Many engineering students claimed that they had not even known that there was a bee problem in the building.


“I’ve never seen one bee and I walk around there all the time,” mechanical engineering major and senior Aaron Risinger said.

Mike Knuckley, the beekeeper hired by the university, stated that homeowners and businesses may not recognize or know the presence of a hive for months or even years at a time.


“You can walk right by their entry way a lot of times, and if you don’t disturb them, you’ll never know they’re there,” said Knuckley. “They’re interested in taking care of their own business.”

STREET BEAT


How did class registration go for you?




Could have been worse. Banner is petty. ‘Haha! Your class is closed!’
Katie Seidel ‘11



Are expletives allowed?
Ana Moroian ‘11



I don’t have class until 2 [p.m.] three days a week. Draw your own conclusions.
Colleen Gunning ‘09



Three of my classes were overrides, so four seconds.
Eddy Hong ‘09

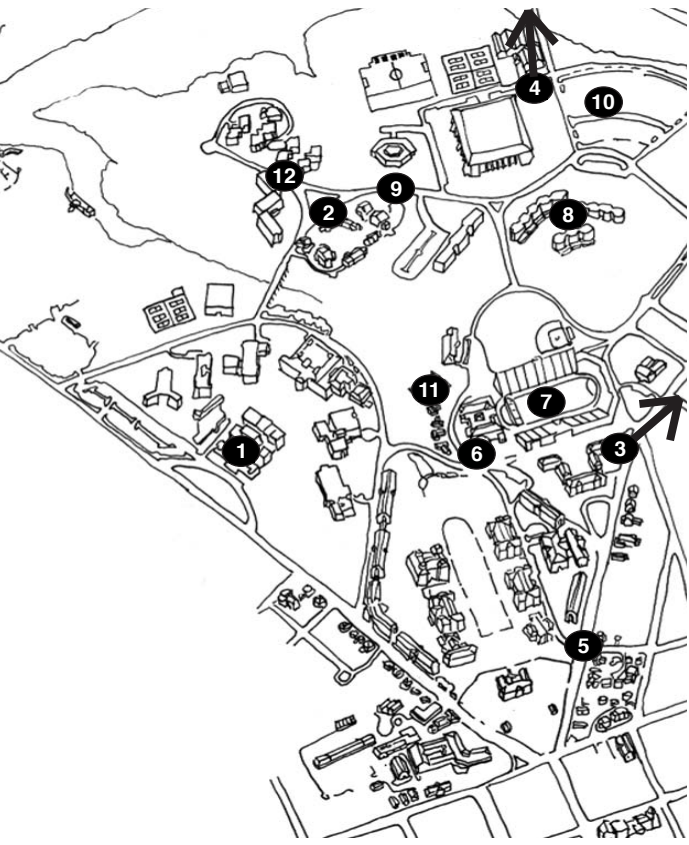
— photos and interviews by Tom Tibbett

CAMPUS POLICE BEAT

Nov. 6 to Nov. 12

Tuesday, Nov. 6 — A female student reported a stolen iPod from Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall. The iPod went missing

sometime Sunday, Nov. 4. — A faculty member reported that his hangtag had been stolen from his parked car at 200 Ukrop



Way. — A student reported that his car was vandalized on Harrison Avenue. Police estimate the damage to be around \$200.

Wednesday, Nov. 7 — Two non-students and two juveniles were arrested at the Old Sentara Hospital for attempting to steal copper and possession of burglary tools. \$100 is thought to have been stolen from the complex.

Thursday, Nov. 8 — A non-student called police to report that her ex-husband had embezzled \$1,800 in College funds upon the termination of his employment. Police are now investigating the claim.

Saturday, Nov. 10 — Two students were arrested at the intersection of Richmond Road and Armistead Road for possession of alcohol.

— A caller from the UC Terrace reported that loud noise had been coming from the frats. The noise was actually coming from the football game.

— Two students were referred for disorderly conduct for attempting to jump on the field during the JMU football game.

— A fire alarm went off in Fraternity Units F through J. Police reported an estimated damage of \$100 due to a fire extinguisher that was set off in the hallway.

Sunday, Nov. 11 — A caller reported loud music coming from the next room at 500 Ukrop Way. Police advised the residents next door about noise policy.

— A non-student reported that her purse had been stolen from her car parked in the William and Mary Hall parking lot. Items worth \$240 were stolen.

Monday, Nov. 12 — A caller from Lodge 12 reported a suspicious person trying to get past the door. Police could not locate the suspect, but scanned the area for fingerprints and are investigating a partial print.

— A student reported a stolen parking decal from 100 Wake Drive. The decal was worth \$275.

— A student reported his bicycle stolen from 101 Wake Drive. The estimated value of the bike was \$10.

— compiled by Isshin Teshima

Midterm 2007 SA Senate Report Card

RANKING OF SENATORS BY BILLS PASSED

Rank	Senator and class	Bills passed	Bills failed	Bills in committee	Total Bills sponsored	Passed internal affairs bills	% Bills passed	Total score
1.	Matt Skibiak ('08)	7	1	3	11	1	64	6
2.	Walter McClean ('09)	7	0	2	9	3	78	4
3.	Devan Barber ('08)	4	0	1	5	1	80	3
4.	Joe Luppino-Esposito ('08)	3	0	8	11	1	27	2
4.	Tiseme Zegeye ('08)	3	0	3	6	1	50	2
4.	Matt Beato ('09)*	5	0	0	5	3	100	2
4.	Caroline Mullis ('09)	5	0	3	8	3	63	2
4.	Ryan Eickel ('10)	2	0	0	2	0	100	2
4.	Orlando Watson ('10)	3	0	5	8	1	38	2
10.	Sarah Rojas ('10)**	2	0	4	6	1	33	1
10.	Ray Ciabatonni ('10)	2	0	1	3	1	67	1

RANKING OF SENATORS BY ATTENDANCE

Rank	Senator and class	Attendance percentage	Attendance record
1.	Joe Luppino-Esposito ('08)	100	11/11
1.	Matt Skibiak ('08)	100	11/11
1.	Matt Beato ('09)*	100	11/11
1.	Walter McClean ('09)	100	11/11
1.	Caroline Mullis ('09)	100	11/11
1.	Ray Ciabatonni ('10)	100	11/11
1.	Ryan Eickel ('10)	100	11/11
1.	Sarah Rojas ('10)**	100	11/11
1.	Orlando Watson ('10)	100	11/11
10.	Tiseme Zegeye ('08)	91	10/11
11.	Devan Barber ('08)	82	9/11

* Senate Chair **NOTE:** Senators not listed under “Accomplishments In Their Own Words” failed to submit blurbs. Headshots courtesy of SA.
** Senate Secretary

METHODOLOGY

This list is not meant to be comprehensive. It ranks SA senators by two different criteria. It does not make subjective qualitative distinctions between bills.

BILLS PASSED: The “Bills Passed” ranking chart contains columns describing the number of bills each senator sponsored that passed this legislative session, the number that failed and the number that are currently in committee. The percent of these total bills passed is also reported, as well as an “internal affairs” number, based upon The Flat Hat’s view of the scope of each bill. The “passed internal affairs bills” score is the number of bills each senator sponsored and passed that are geared toward SA operations rather than bills that directly affect students. A senator’s total score is computed by subtracting “passed internal affairs bills” from “passed bills” to represent the number of bills each senator sponsored that directly affect students. The number arrived at, the total score, is used for ranking.

ATTENDANCE: Senators are also ranked by the percentage of meetings attended. Senators must have been in attendance for at least half of the votes during the meeting to be marked present. The rightmost column shows the number of meetings each senator attended.

FOR BOTH RANKINGS: Ties are allowed, and senators who tie within a ranking are listed alphabetically within social class.

NEWLY ELECTED SENATORS: Freshmen senators and newly-elected senator Alex Kyrios '09 were not included in the rankings, as they have only been in office since October.

DATES INCLUDED: The rankings include meetings from the beginning of the senators’ terms last spring through the Nov. 6 meeting. A Senate Report Card will be printed this spring that includes all meetings, including freshmen senators and Kyrios.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Luppino-Esposito: I fought for graduate students to be able to elect their senators, but, unfortunately, the Review Board ruled that graduate senators should be appointed. I have several bills coming to fruition regarding parking and paper usage, which will save student resources.



Ciabatonni: I have worked to improve technical issues, such as SIN polling and the interest earned on student funds. I passed a bill restructuring special events funding to make it more open and fair. I have also worked on making sure students are informed of their rights and on bike safety.



Skibiak: I focused on improving academics and Greek life. I advocated for a more reasonable final exam time and an underclassman pass/fail option. I advocated for a more responsible Greek social environment, and I want to work on campus beautification and upping the College’s prestige.



Eickel: I have worked with the public affairs committee in organizing the voter registration drive. I have also worked to expand the WM Express system to new businesses. I am composing a bill that will provide funds for the creation of pamphlets outlining student benefits in Williamsburg.



Zegeye: I worked on the Apology for Slavery Bill that proposes the BOV apologize for the College’s role in slavery and establish a commission to investigate its history at the College. I am also working to bring Daryl Hunt, who was wrongly imprisoned for over 19 years, to campus.



Rojas: I led and organized the student voter registration drive. I have also worked to expand health center services through the possible creation of a free taxi service to hospitals when the health center is not open, and I am in the process of expanding Express and Flex to outside businesses.



Beato: I worked on getting the ability to remove local addresses from the student directory and allowing graduate students to represent undergraduates in judicial proceedings. I’m working now to register students to vote. The rest of my time is spent on my responsibilities as chairman.



Watson: Orlando Watson has encouraged students to register to vote in Williamsburg and passed a bill denouncing the increased police presence. He wants the College to remove investments from companies that invest in Sudan, while the genocide occurs.



McClean: My main push this semester is to get a 24/7 free ride service for students to go to the hospital, MedExpress or any local doctor. I also initiated a contract between the College and free music provider Ruckus to get a server on campus to increase download speed.



Brittany Fallon '11: I’ve been working with Facilities Management to increase emergency light maintenance. I’m working on bills to promote increased emergency light coverage, especially at Ludwell. I have worked with SEAC to plant arrow arum in the College’s retention ponds.



Mullis: Most of my efforts have been to make condoms more available. Soon, condoms will be distributed through the Residence Hall Association. I am expanding the recycling program by providing departments with containers and student organizations with access to recycled paper.



Ronnie Wang '11: I am working on a bill to offer freshmen more flexibility when choosing meal plans, and I’m working on a bill to reimburse students with meal plans who fast for religious reasons. I am working with SEAC to encourage the development of an “Eco-house” next year.

Honoring a beloved coach

By ANGELA COTA
Flat Hat Assoc. News

A memorial service for Pete Conomikes, club fencing coach, was held at 11:30 a.m. today in the University Center’s Commonwealth Auditorium. Conomikes died in a car accident Saturday afternoon on the way to a fencing tournament in

Pennsylvania. Two of the three fencing team members that were injured in the same crash are still hospitalized in the VCU Medical Center in Richmond. Conomikes was 86; he had coached with the College since 1972. “He was a remarkable man – training athletes here and enlarg-

ing their lives for over three decades. We ask that you join his family, his athletes, his friends, and his colleagues to say goodbye to one of the most beloved and most inspiring members of our community,” College President Gene Nichol said in an e-mail to students Tuesday. A reception in Tidewater will follow the service.

Controversial e-mail released

E-MAIL from page 1

supporting Nichol has 775 members. In the month leading up to the release of Sullivan’s e-mail, the Facebook group lost one member. Since the e-mail’s release two days ago, the group has lost 17 members. Nichol said yesterday that

Students and faculty have strongly supported Nichol in the past against vocal alumni who have been criticizing him for a number of issues since his decision last October to remove the Wren Chapel cross from permanent display. The cross has been returned to the chapel inside a glass case. Nichol said yesterday that

his opponents will continue hurling allegations at him until the BOV makes a decision on whether to renew his contract, which expires in June. He also said he should have worked harder to contact McGlothlin. “Hindsight is frequently better than foresight,” he said. “At least in my case.”



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TOAD'S PLACE *Where The Legends Play*

TONIGHT: 

Streetlight Manifesto.....11/18
*Suburban Legends *The Stitch Up

The Hold Steady w/ Art Brut.....11/19
*1990s

Regina Spektor.....11/20
*Only Son

Avenged Sevenfold w/ Operator..11/21
*The Confession *Black Tide

Club Pulse at Toad's Place.....11/24
*Featuring MTV mix-master: DJ Skribbles

Y101 Snowball w/ Paramore.....11/29
*Sliversun Pickups *Army of ME

The Reflex: Indie Dance Night.....11/30
*Britpop, New Wave, Electroclash, Glam, Synthpop, 80's kitsch, soul, & indie

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ART SALE!

Friday, November 30th
11am – 3pm
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Great for Holiday Presents!!

ART SALE!

Research, funding part of plan

RESEARCH from page 1

progress in fundamental state goals regarding access, enrollment, affordability and student retention.

Its goals include enhancing science programs and research, along with building new arts, business and education facilities.

These changes are being made in the hopes of enhancing faculty and student research productivity.

In order to meet these goals, the College set up a number of objectives, including meeting research space needs for the physics department and the School of Education.

“As budget deficits in Washington get larger, colleges are getting more aggressive, and more people are chasing fewer dollars,” Vice President of Finance Sam Jones said.

To increase support for research, the

College will place emphasis on augmenting research start up funds. Applied science, computer science and neuroscience gain the most attention from the plan because the College has determined that they have insufficient faculty and research space to be competitive for federal grants.

In addition to increasing external funding, the plan hints at a successor campaign to the \$500 million Campaign for William and Mary. Jones said that a future campaign is several years away, and would involve reviewing the campaign for some guidance with regard to immediate fundraising needs.

The financial plan is critical for the implementation of many of the College’s other goals, including raising faculty and staff salary and maintaining heavy need-based financial support for students.

“We are committed to the size of the College. It is very important to maintaining undergraduate research and opportunity,” Jones said.

While enrollment numbers may not change, the source of students may. One of the goals of the plan is to increase the number of students admitted from community colleges.

Additionally, the plan named supporting low-income students as one of its highest priorities over the next six years. The College hopes to enroll more than 600 students of lower socioeconomic status by the end of the six-year planning period.

Future tuition numbers were absent from the plan due to the difficulty involved in predicting the tuition increases over the next six years.

“Projected tuition is completely based on whether there is state support or not. We have to plan for both conditions,” Jones said.

Jones pointed out that most of the plan is based on the state’s fundamental expectations for the College, including a commitment to the growth of teacher education and physical, mathematical and biological sciences — areas of “critical need” for the commonwealth.

The College has promised to maintain close collaborative relationships with public elementary and secondary schools

“[In the plan] there are not many new ideas or priorities; it’s just focusing our resources,” Jones said.

The College’s goal of attracting and retaining a high-quality faculty and staff has led to a plan to raise the average faculty salary over time to a nationally competitive level.

The plan stressed maintaining the College’s high student standards and retention rate. Projected enrollment rates show that the College has no intention of increasing its size and aims to increase its total enrollment by only 1 percent over the next six years.

SA rocks the vote

SA from page 1

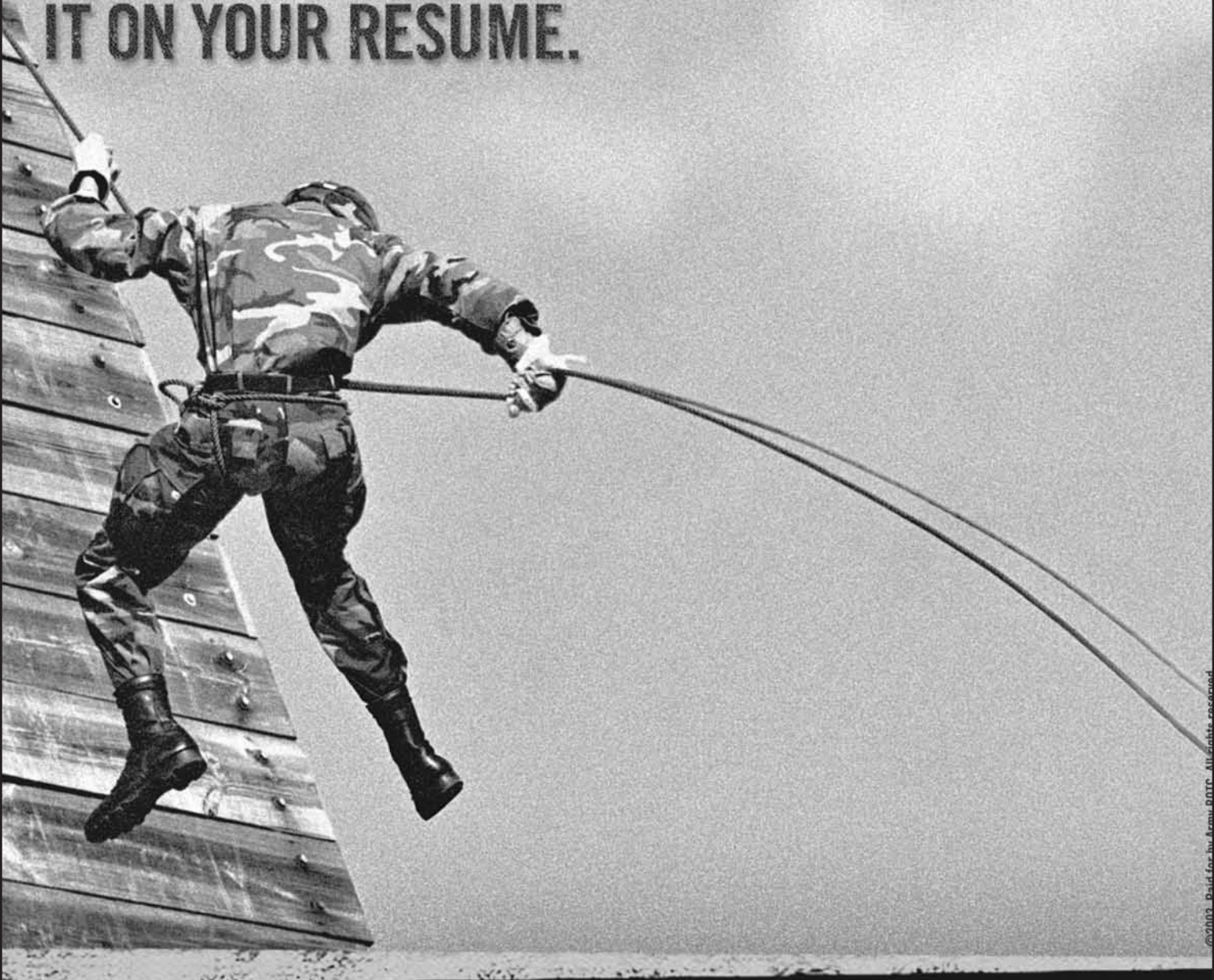
According to Rock the Vote’s website, the organization was established in 1990 in “response to a wave of attacks on freedom of speech and artistic expression.”

Since then it has focused resources on organizing registration drives geared toward young people. Rock the Vote frequently uses concerts to heighten the profile of voter registration as an issue.

Rock the Vote’s Director of Education Kat Barr said that the organization operates within the “intersection of celebrities, culture, politics and technology” to raise awareness of issues commonly associated with younger voters.

Barr was unable to cite the cost for holding a concert Rock the Vote because events and partnerships are still being made for the 2008 election season.

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Doubts on Nichol

The decision facing the Board of Visitors over the potential renewal of College President Gene Nichol’s contract is the most important issue that the College has confronted in the last three years.

The ramifications of this decision will be far-reaching, leaving no student, faculty member or alumnus untouched.

With the future of the College and every member of its community at stake, all concerned groups and individuals should focus on the facts and allow the BOV to make a logical, calculated decision.

The release of an e-mail correspondence between former College President Timothy Sullivan and Nichol has led many to conclude that Nichol intentionally misled alumni and students when he announced last February that the Campaign for William and Mary had reached its \$500 million goal.

While our confidence in Nichol has been considerably shaken over his misinterpretation of this e-mail and his inadequate response to disgruntled donor James McGlothlin ’62 J.D. ’64, we have not seen irrefutable evidence that Nichol lied about his knowledge of McGlothlin’s intentions. His response to these allegations, which he articulated in a meeting with The Flat Hat’s editorial board yesterday evening, was that he believed that Sullivan was referring to a future pledge from McGlothlin to the College, as opposed to the \$12 million dollar estate pledge that was booked in 2005 before Nichol became president.

Nichol maintains that he made an honest mistake in misinterpreting Sullivan’s e-mail. While the wording was somewhat ambiguous, Nichol’s inability to respond to this e-mail and actively pursue contact with both Sullivan and McGlothlin is inexcusable. Nichol said that he would rather not comment on his relationship with the College’s former president, but his failure to consult Sullivan on an important issue like the removal of the Wren cross and his inability to recognize the urgency of Sullivan’s e-mail raises important questions about Nichol’s leadership capabilities.

The e-mail may be the news of the day, but everyone in the College community should understand that this is part of a larger, complex problem that will dictate the future well-being of this university. We encourage the BOV to release any other pertinent documents or information that may enhance the public’s understanding of this difficult issue. As BOV Rector Michael Powell articulated in a recent statement to the community, “The Board [of Visitors] is fully aware of the facts surrounding this matter and it is the Board that will consider whether anything in this episode bears on the performance of College leadership.”

This is precisely what the College needs at this time. We are not making an argument for restricting free speech, but blind hatred and systematic attacks on Nichol by various groups are hindering the delicate job with which the BOV has been tasked. Continuing dialogue on the issue is something that we will continue to encourage — particularly since Powell has notified the community via e-mail that the BOV would welcome submissions — but this decision should not be made in the public forum. Moreover, making accusations of dishonesty without proper evidence is irresponsible and undermines this important process.

Since Nichol’s honesty in this case cannot be indubitably proved or disproved at present, the deciding factor in the BOV’s decision should be his judgment as a leader, and the board should consider all of the decisions he has made over the past two and half years, good and bad. Based on the current evidence, The Flat Hat is quite disappointed with many of his choices as president, particularly his inability to see potential problems with a disgruntled donor and his apparent lethargy when it came to contacting both McGlothlin and Sullivan.

The situation with Sullivan is particularly discouraging. It is apparent from the e-mail that Sullivan had offered his counsel in the past, yet it seems that Nichol failed to consult with Sullivan before removing the cross.

The apparent lack of contact is troubling. At the time of the Wren cross

decision, Nichol was still learning the terrain and adapting to life at the helm of the College, and his predecessor’s wisdom likely would have proved to be an invaluable asset. In the e-mail, Sullivan states, “I could have told you where this decision would go,” implying that Nichol may have had a better idea of the potential consequences for his actions had he contacted Sullivan before removing the cross. We are concerned that Nichol has a pattern of making poor decisions without consulting others.

Nichol has underperformed in several cases, but it must remain the BOV’s decision as to whether his accomplishments as president — some of which are quite notable and have improved our school — outweigh the alumni alienation and other side effects of the Wren cross debacle. It is difficult to believe that a president can lead this College under such scrutiny and ridicule, but Nichol remains convinced that he is the right man for the job. While we are unhappy with his leadership at the moment, we recognize that a solution will come with the BOV’s eventual decision. We hope that whatever decision is reached, the best interests of the College are preserved and continue to be the ultimate priority for all concerned.



The numbers speak for themselves.

BY OLIVIA WALCH, FLAT HAT CARTOONIST

Pro-choice production

Devan Barber

FLAT HAT STAFF COLUMNIST



In a shameless act of self-promotion, and because I can’t go more than a few weeks without writing about reproductive rights, I want to encourage everyone to set aside one night this weekend to see Vox: Voices for Planned Parenthood’s fall play, “Jane: Abortion and the Underground.”

If you are not aware, Vox is the College’s reproductive rights organization. We’re officially affiliated with Planned Parenthood, and we exist to raise awareness about sexual health, birth control and politics surrounding reproductive rights. With ‘Jane,’ we’re attempting to raise historical awareness about a woman’s right

to choose in hopes that it will provoke others to join our fight.

‘Jane’ is a student-run theatrical production that details the story of a secret abortion collective in Chicago. The group was active during the late 1960s and early 1970s, before the Supreme Court decision Roe v. Wade made abortion services legal in the United States. The women of Jane (the name of their underground group) were a mix of students, housewives, mothers and feminist activists, and members of the Chicago Police Department, medical community and clergy helped promote its services.

Danielle Garrett ’08 and Morgan Berman ’08, the two student directors for ‘Jane,’ explained that the main goal of production was to simultaneously celebrate the bravery and compassion these women illustrated, while remembering how limited women’s health options were only several decades ago. Essentially, we admire what they did for women desperately seeking abortion services, and we never want to return to a time in which this type of basic

health care is not legal or accessible.

Just last month, a World Health Organization/Guttmacher Institute study was released showing that abortion rates are not actually lower in countries where abortion is illegal, but the procedure is simply more dangerous.

It showed that about 20 million of the abortions performed each year are considered “unsafe” and about 67,000 women die as a result of complications from these abortions. The study also found that in Uganda (where abortion is outlawed and sexual education only teaches abstinence), the estimated abortion rate was 54 per 1,000 in 2003. In contrast, the abortion rate in the United States was 21 per 1,000 that year, and in Western European countries (where abortion laws are less restrictive and contraception is more widely available), the rate was only 12 per 1,000.

While these statistics cannot prove the need for legal abortion alone, they indicate that the

more options women have in terms of information, available contraception and abortion services, the less women will feel the need to obtain unsafe abortions.

Facts like this remind us that women don’t choose

abortion because it is convenient, but because it often seems to be the only option. Moreover, making abortion illegal will only make it unsafe. To reduce abortions, we can work to make birth control more accessible, ensure public schools teach comprehensive sexual education so teens know the consequences of their actions and support adequate pregnancy and child care leaves for both women and men.

In the end, ‘Jane’ is not necessarily about being “pro-choice,” but about supporting sound public policy and health care for women. Through ‘Jane,’ Vox hopes to show the horrible repercussions involved in outlawing abortion — we want to steer the abortion debate toward ways to reduce its prevalence, rather than its safety or accessibility.

Devan Barber is a senior at the College.

With released e-mail, Nichol supporters feel lost

Max Fisher

FLAT HAT CHIEF STAFF WRITER



When I ask people around campus about the recently released e-mail between College President Gene Nichol and former College President Tim Sullivan, the response is totally unlike anything I have ever seen.

Ask someone about Nichol’s other controversial moments, or about one of George W. Bush’s policies, or even about that pop quiz your professor gave on the first day of class, and you will find one of three responses to the decisions of leaders: defense, attack or apathy.

Sometimes people like a leader’s decision, and they defend it, as many students did after Nichol removed the Wren cross. Disliked decisions are attacked. Apathy is most common, inspiring only a shrug.

But the reaction to Nichol’s e-mail is none of these three, is something I’ve never seen, even through all the ups and downs of Nichol’s tumultuous three years as president. People look at the ground when asked about the e-mail. They frown. They sigh a lot. They don’t know what to say.

They are sad. They are hurt. It hurts, this e-mail and its implications. It hurts us because we wanted to like Nichol, wanted to join him in his quest in

making the College a better place, wanted to cheer him on along the way.

But we don’t know if we can do that any more. We, who understand the pettiness of Nichol’s detractors and the importance of his contributions to the College, are unsure if we can still defend him. The revelations of this e-mail may be too much to forgive. So, the dream of a better College dies with our faith in Nichol. Nichol’s real betrayal, his real crime, more than anything else, no matter what they say, is allowing that dream to die. It was his dream, too. Now cracks a noble heart.

It is unclear whether Nichol was being honest when he announced in February that the Campaign for William and Mary had reached its goal of \$500 million, which included the then-revoked \$12 million from James McGlothlin ’62 J.D. ’64. Some critics claim that Sullivan’s e-mail shows Nichol knew at the time that the donation had been revoked, but the wording of the e-mail is vague and I remain unconvinced.

Nichol likely thought Sullivan was referring to a future donation. After all, the donation had been booked years prior and Sullivan’s e-mail only says McGlothlin “is not prepared to give any more money at this time.” We now know this refers to the revoked donation, but it could easily have been read as referencing future gifts. I, for one, am not comfortable condemning Nichol of dishonesty under

such ambiguous circumstances.

His statements during a Oct. 22 interview with The Flat Hat, however, leave despairingly less room for interpretation: “Tim [Sullivan] and I talked about the donation and had communication, but there was no indication that this was revoking this past pledge.”

Nichol could have misinterpreted Sullivan’s e-mail back in December, when the revoked donation was not publicly known. But this interview was a matter of weeks ago, when furor over the re-

voked donation was loudest. Nichol’s critics were saying, very specifically, that the then-unreleased e-mail showed Nichol could have known about the donation. This turned out to be true, though Nichol implied that

it was false in his Oct. 22 interview.

I have re-read both the interview transcript and the e-mail many times and I cannot find a way for this to be true.

Nichol led us to believe he couldn’t have known about the revoked donation. He said that it wasn’t clear at the time, which is true. But what he left out is that it’s now obvious that the e-mail does indicate that the donation had been revoked and that he had misread it. He allowed us to believe that the e-mail made no mention of the donation, though he knew that to be false. That’s far too big a detail for its omission to be a mistake. That’s far too big an

People look at the ground when asked about the e-mail. They frown. They sigh a lot. They don’t know what to say.

I'll take 'College alumni' for \$1,000

By ELIZABETH COLE
The Flat Hat

Answer: Jeff Spoeri.

Which College alumnus competed in the “Jeopardy!” Tournament of Champions?

Though a ‘Jeopardy’ champion now, years ago Speori ’87 hardly considered it a viable goal.

“I’ve always been into trivia,” Spoeri said. “I was coming out of college in the heyday of Trivial Pursuit. It was always a running gag — someday I’m gonna pay off my law school loans on ‘Jeopardy.’” Ironically enough, he did just that. Since his debut on the game show last fall, he has won over \$114,000 and competed more than eight times.

Spoeri’s success on ‘Jeopardy’ has been as unexpected as it has been unfathomable. Spoeri said he does not actively prepare for the game show. In fact, he purchased but one book, “Shakespeare for Idiots,” in anticipation of the ongoing Tournament of Champions. He laughed, though, because it has yet to come in handy.

In fact, Spoeri’s lack of preparation is justified in that, according to him, most of the questions are “esoteric, obscure

... a lot of it is luck of the draw.”

He performs no superstitious rituals, but does make a point to sleep well the night before a competition; the first time he appeared on the show in a wildcard round, his continued winning demanded he film five consecutive rounds in one day. The next day he was knocked out in the first round, which he chalks up to exhaustion. Since then he has made a conscious effort to sleep sufficiently the night beforehand.

The Tournament of Champions, in which Spoeri competes this week, features 15 former winners competing for the \$250,000 grand prize and the title of Champion of Champions.

His success somewhat stemmed from

Spoeri earning his undergraduate degree in government and performing arts from the College. He then furthered his education with a Master’s degree from Vanderbilt University and a J.D. from Washington University in St. Louis.

for his accomplishment on ‘Jeopardy.’

The selection process for the game show favors not only intelligence, but also personality, attitude and audience appeal. All the applicants are all exceptionally bright, but Spoeri also discovered that ‘Jeopardy’ looks for amiable candidates who will draw fan following from viewers and who will be entertaining competitors.

“Interesting, enthusiastic people have an edge [in becoming contestants],” he said.

Spoeri’s theater experience behooved him in the selection process. He listed his lack of stage fright as an advantage when filming the shows.

“You don’t think about the 12 million television viewers, but you do think

about the 200 live audience members,” he said.

Affiliation with the College proved particularly helpful last year when he was asked a Daily Double question about the founding of the Phi Beta Kappa honor fraternity. Spoeri correctly answered that 1776 was its inaugural year. The clue was a “traveling clue,” which included a short video filmed at the location. Spoeri’s familiarity with the campus and its history led to his correct response.

Additionally, Spoeri underlined the value of his degree from the College on the whole. “Having a WM degree is a real feather in your cap,” he said.

His brush with fame has left Spoeri unfazed. He said that Alex Trebeck is not nearly as intimidating as he is portrayed on the show, and that he is actually down-to-earth.

“On TV, he may come across as condescending, but he is really polite, nice and personable,” Spoeri said.

He also defended Trebeck’s true abilities, which are oftentimes suppressed as the host.

“Alex is a bright guy — no doubt about it,” Spoeri said.

See ‘JEOPARDY’ page 7

CONFUSION CORNER

Studying abroad too closely resembles a Disney vacation

Dan Piepenbring
FLAT HAT COLUMNIST



“In some respects, study abroad has become for this generation what going to college was for their parents,” Laura Pappano recently wrote in The New York Times. “Being in a place a dozen time zones away, where Internet service and cell phones are unreliable, provides one of the first chances for true and prolonged independence.”

Pappano went on to describe expensive programs that cater to a uniquely American desire for creature comforts and security. New York University, for example, recently opened a study abroad center in Ghana with accommodations that rival those at NYU itself. The reason? Students studying in Accra, Pappano wrote, “expect a standard of food and housing (and sleep) that is not typical in West Africa.”

All of which is enough to make a student wonder: Are study abroad programs sheltering us from culture instead of exposing us to it? It seems that a truly immersive semester abroad is becoming a rarer and rarer commodity these days — the much-touted “study abroad experience” has been homogenized into oblivion. If being in Ghana is phenomenologically similar to being in America, then something’s afoot in the nether regions of higher education.

The crux of the problem, as I understand it, is that students aren’t willing to surrender certain standards of living in exchange for a broadening of their proverbial horizons. Somehow we’ve tricked ourselves into believing that it’s possible to experience new ways of life without abandoning our comfort zone.

Studying abroad in, say, Florence sounds appealing at first blush; less palatable is the idea of sleeping on the floor of a stranger’s one-bedroom apartment for four months and going without hot water for days at a time. Normatively, we tell ourselves that encountering displeasure is inherently bad. When it comes to going abroad, though, the inverse is true.

Judging from the stories I’ve heard, there are plenty of students who go abroad in search of nonstop partying. They seek an extended spring break where the workload is low and the inhibitions are lower.

These hedonistic tourists aren’t the ones you hear about when you talk to the folks at the Reves Center. In fact, administrators often act like the hedonistic tourist types don’t exist at all, even though certain programs seem to cater almost exclusively to such people. We’ve all heard of these Americanized

bubbles, wherein classes are bullshit and nightlife reigns supreme.

I can’t imagine that the “party central” mentality is boosting the reputation of America abroad. As the informative Reves Center staff often points out, college students are prominent cultural ambassadors.

If we, the ostensibly educated elite of this country, reveal ourselves to be ignorant of — and immune to — non-American worldviews, then foreign citizens will have no reason to eschew stereotypes; they can go on thinking that we live in nothing more than the land of primitive capital punishment, oppressively privatized health care, commercialized mass religion, material excess, pervasive solipsism and much, much more. It’s always been kind of assumed that sending students abroad augurs well for America’s respectability. But what happens if the students turn out to be really, really big assholes?

Granted, it’s impossible to evaluate each and every study abroad program out there, but somehow the wheat needs to be separated from the chaff. If we refuse to support costly programs that portray an ersatz, Disneyfied version of their respective countries, I think more students could afford to go abroad, and they would have better experiences. By “better,” I mean more indicative of a region’s culture and heritage — more edifying and less uniform.

Economically, though, this outcome seems unlikely. Dubious study abroad opportunities will continue to arise for the same reason that the planet’s most popular landmarks have become banal tourist traps: It’s more profitable that way.

The NYU students enjoying their swanky home-away-from-home in Ghana are likely very wealthy. NYU makes a pretty penny from their tuitions, and Ghana’s economy probably receives a boost from the American sector, too. Thus, cultural rifts will be nurtured and encouraged as long as someone stands to gain financially.

And yet, if students set out in search of the eternal buzz, and foreign institutions welcome them with open arms, we have no right — let alone an effective method — to stop them. Of course we could try to herd everyone together and fly them to Disney World instead; it has none of Earth’s destitution. It’s literally pluperfect. Reliable shuttle buses. Killer happy hours. The star-studded, racially diverse cast of “High School Musical 2.”

It’s hard enough to motivate sympathy for other people on America’s own campuses — now we’ve started erecting international bastions of apathy.

A semester abroad merits careful reconsideration. We shouldn’t receive academic credit for denying reality.

Dan Piepenbring is a Confusion Corner columnist. He is studying in Disneyland Paris next semester.

ARTS ON CAMPUS

‘Jane’ speaks about abortion

By MICHELLE JU
The Flat Hat

At 8 p.m. tomorrow and 10 p.m. Sunday, Vox: Voices for Planned Parenthood will present “Jane: Abortion and the Underground” at Ewell Recital Hall.

Morgan Berman ’08, the co-chair of Vox’s special events and director of “Jane,” discussed the play’s aim to inspire and educate students across campus, especially “people not yet involved or unsure about their opinions on Planned Parenthood and reproductive freedom.” The production celebrates financial and emotional costs suffered by members of Jane who provided a refuge for women in need of care.

“The play displays [the members’] compassion for women they were serving,” Berman said. “All reproductive health care should be safe, affordable and accessible.”

The production also seeks to educate students on the quality of life for women and the female voice before the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion in America, as well as the infringements on women’s reproductive rights.

Berman added that the production is a “fundraising event for Vox, so [they] can continue setting up socially aware plays like this.”

Written by feminist playwright

Paula Kamen, the historically based play centers around Jane, an underground network of college women and middle-class housewives that illegally provided abortion services during the early 1970s.

The network’s services became a trusted source of refuge for women seeking to abort their pregnancies during a time that pre-dated the Roe v. Wade decision, which legalized abortion in the United States.

The network, synonymous with the Counseling Service of the Chicago Women’s Liberation Union, provided safe, practical and reliable health facilities and clinics for 11,000 women in the Chicago

area. Members of Jane were self-taught in the abortion procedure; they had neither medical background nor experience.

The play raises questions about abortion, addressing the impact on the physical safety and well-being of women if it is made illegal.

“Making [abortion] illegal doesn’t take care of anything,” Berman said. “In countries where abortion is illegal, abortion rates have remained the same, while women’s mortality rate rose. We want to prevent that.”

“Pro-choice isn’t pro-abortion — it’s pro-choice, a woman’s choice to choose abortion or life for her unborn.”



JULIA SCHAUMBURG — THE FLAT HAT
Members of the cast of ‘Jane’ rehearse for the play, which premieres tomorrow.

ARTS ON CAMPUS

Students perform love, sex, drama

By BETSY DOUGERT
Flat Hat Staff Writer

Second Season will present “Unidentified Human Remains and the True Nature of Love” tonight and tomorrow night at 8 p.m. in the Studio Theater of Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall.

“This is not your standard William and Mary theater fare,” Director Laurie Wolf said. “It is definitely a Second Season type of show. It’s in the studio, in the round and in people’s faces, including all of the sex, violence and mind games the characters play with one another.”

While the show’s plot is too complex to boil down into a quick summary, it focuses on the two themes of love and violence, which weave together the individual characters’ stories.

To illustrate this concept, Bess Kaye ’08, publicity director and master lighting technician for the show, designed posters with the slogans: “How far can pleasure go before it becomes pain?”

“It’s about trying to negotiate relationships of all sorts in the post-modern world — love, friendship,

sexual partners,” Wolf said. This is not your typical love story, as shown in the character of Candy, played by Brittney Walker ’10, who experiments liberally with her sexuality. In one scene, both the man and the woman she has been dating show up uninvited and are surprised to find that Candy hasn’t been honest with either of them.

In the midst of its themes regarding the chaos surrounding love, the show is framed by a story about a serial killer who preys on the town and infiltrates himself into the lives of the other characters.

“We live in a world where violence touches us,” Wolf said. “Catastrophic events exist around us, just like the serial killer in the play, but how do they touch us? Are they eventually gone again? If they’ve touched us personally, they might have lasting effects. How do we have the strength to go on?”

The show was written by Canadian playwright Brad Fraser in 1989 and has a relatively short history of performance. In the same year, Time magazine named it one of the “10 Best Plays of the Year.”

The cast roughly compares the play to the movies “Crash” and “Requiem for a Dream,” because of its emotional intensity, as well as the eventual coalescence of the individual characters’ stories.

Rolfe Shiflett ’08 plays the main character, David.

“David is an everyman in that he has a lot of hopes and dreams and not all have been fulfilled,” Shiflett said. “He has to figure out what to do with his life when that all goes away.”

The seven performers have a tight bond and are proud of their work.

“Everyone has really pulled their own weight,” Shiflett said. The other featured performer is Keegan Cassidy ’10.

The show is scheduled to run approximately one hour and 45 minutes. Audience members are warned that there is no late seating for the play due to the intensity of the opening scenes.

Tickets cost \$5 at the door, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. Profits from a silent auction of Broadway posters will be donated to the same charity.

That Guy

Judd Kennedy



By SAMANTHA FIEN-HELFMAN
That Guy Columnist

Judd Kennedy has a lot to smile about. He has just been announced as a Marshall Scholar. This is a scholarship that will finance his studies at any U.K. university of his choice next year. Judd was also recently initiated into the Phi Beta Kappa honor society. These accolades are just the beginning of describing Judd: eloquence, unassuming intellect — he is fluent in Arabic — passion, and of course, his beautiful eyes and gentle demeanor. That Guy discusses his journey, which includes his passion for social justice, his studies and his plan to eventually live and work in the Middle East.

What is your proudest accomplishment during your tenure at the College?

It’s hard to say because I don’t think that the things that mean the most are always tangible, so to levy them as such is difficult. Personally, I think my greatest accomplishment, or the one that has meant the most to me, has been the Gentlemen and kind of finding my place within that group. It’s not specific, but I came in not knowing my place and not sure of myself at all, and it all changed one moment when I was singing with the group of guys and realized I belonged ... I finally got it. That was probably one of the key moments I am going to look back on and think, “Wow ... it was amazing to be a part of that.”

What is your favorite Gentlemen historic fact?

Well my favorite, and least well known, fact would be that there was a period of time in the mid-90s when the Gentlemen had a long tradition of streaking the Sunken Garden together after the spring final concert. Sometimes they would do it running, other times they would do it walking. They were crazy. The tradition has since died out but there have been talks of bringing the tradition back. I can’t tell you the rest or I’d have to kill you.

What have you done that you would consider crazy?

I wouldn’t call this so crazy, but I definitely turned a lot of heads when I went to the West Bank to study Arabic. A lot of people were just like, “Really Judd? Are you crazy?” It was during the Gaza disengagement, so there was a large presence of political and military tension at the time. Retrospectively, I thought I was much safer than I actually was, but the trip definitely defined my experiences as a Middle Eastern studies major.

And what is it you want to do with your life?

Especially after my four years at college, I have gained an appreciation for the immense amount of suffering, disparities in status of living and the degree to which much of the world population does not have the resources I have received. I have been given a heart for social justice to help those that can’t help themselves: the weak, poor and oppressed. Wherever I go, I want to be centered on that. Not on self glory or the latest fad, but the idea that I am trying to change the conditions of the world with the gifts that I’ve been given and that I won’t become complacent or satisfied because the world has to and needs to be changed.

I just learned I am going to be attending the School of London next year. While there, I am going to work toward two master degrees there through a Marshall Scholarship: one in international law and diplomacy and the other in management in the Middle East. I will be trying to build on my background on the Middle East and my expertise outside of those two degrees.

After that, I’m not sure what I will do. I could see myself working with USAid

or another government agency that does work in the Middle East. I know I want to live in Middle East and I want to be able to work and live with people, while actively contributing to help our world’s problems.

Can you tell me a little about the Marshall Scholarship?

Sure. It is a scholarship for 40 American students each year and is a partnership between the United States and British government to bring students from America to study in the U.K. It’s a sign of friendship; after World War II, England wanted to give it as a sign of goodwill back to America. The scholarship finances your tuition at any of the U.K. universities and I decided to go to London.

To be honest, I really wanted to be able to get the scholarship, but I was not entirely sure that I would. It is really difficult to attain, and I was surprised when it actually happened. I was in the football stadium for the JMU game and I got a call from a random number. I checked the voicemail and there was a British accent that said, “Congratulations, you got it.” I was in shock because I couldn’t believe it would actually happen.

Do you believe in fate?

I don’t believe in fate the way it would be expressed as fate. I do think that life is driven [by] a specific purpose and from my faith perspective, it is God working [in] my life to bring about certain ends. I don’t think you should wait for certain things to happen. There has to be a human motive to go out and do things, but much of [what] is determined is God’s will. A case in point is the Marshall scholarship. I spent 12 hours redoing my essay the day before it was turned in. I didn’t think there was any possibility I would get it and suddenly, I got called back for interview. The last question of my interview was actually about how faith and politics should be intermixed, if at all. I guess I don’t believe in fate, but that a purpose exists behind every action and consequence.

What spurred your passion for social justice and Middle East affairs?

I actually had two different professors that had a truly profound impact on me. Through the Sharpe program, I had the opportunity to take Social Justice and Engagement with professor Schwartz of the Charles Center. He totally rocked my world and really made me think about what it means to be a citizen and how I am going to serve other people. He colored the way I talk and think about things today and put me on the path of everything I’ve done at the College. The second, Annie Higgins, was my freshman Arabic professor. She is now teaching at University of Florida, but she is one of the most phenomenal women I have ever met. She was so passionate and incredibly engaging in class. She is the only professor I know of that would go to all of the cultural dances and then set up five-to-six-hour long coffee sessions with her students. I attribute her mentorship to why I am so interested and want to work in the Middle East.

How have your parents reacted to your desire to work and live in that region?

Well, they were incredibly worried for my first summer. That summer I pushed the limit as far as I could so the next summer, when I traveled to France was kind of a, “Well that’s easy,” type of thing. I think it was after that first year that my parents weren’t as worried about me. They always want me to keep in contact and in touch wherever I am. I would e-mail or Skype to talk to [them] when I was abroad to try and ease their fears. They are still worried but they realize that I’m passionate about it and that’s where I want to live and do my work and they’ve accepted that.

Dress up to satisfy your libido

Emily Powell
BEHIND CLOSED DOORS
COLUMNIST



Roleplay is a sexual adventure that can be adapted from the tamest fiction to a full-blown fantasy with all the accoutrements.

It’s about taking your fantasies and making them realities. Just because it’s roleplay doesn’t mean you necessarily have to be good at acting, though can be helpful.

If you think your partner might be offended by your fantasy or will laugh at you, then sharing your fantasy may not be a good idea. The backlash from releasing that information could cause permanent damage to your relationship, because every time you have sex they’ll know what you really want to do. A dominant-submissive fantasy can be healthy: As long as both of you trust each other and are clear on the rules you might give it the green light.

Acting out a one-person play is boring. If you didn’t have a partner in crime, why would you care whether your fantasies ever left your head? One of the sexiest parts of roleplay is the hardest: You’ve got to tell your partner about your favorite fantasy. This can be hard because sometimes it’s difficult to put words to a fantasy — all you can express is a feeling, a noise or a movement. Close your eyes and try to walk them through how it starts. Be detailed.

You can start your fantasy like this: “It’s like we’re on ‘Lost,’ and we’re the only ones on the island. Then it starts to rain and we huddle up close together.” Awkward to say out loud? Yes. Slightly nerdy? This is the College. Potentially hot? You bet.

It is best if you’re extremely explicit when describing your desires,



and this all depends on how well you know and trust your partner. This is your time to let your partner know everything you’ve ever wanted, and it’s a huge turn-on for them.

For one, it’s better than watching a porno together or reading a sexy novel because they know this isn’t just how Fabio likes it, it’s how you want it. Second, think how much better playing out the fantasy will be if she does that thing with her tongue exactly how you dreamt it, or he makes sure to put you up on the desk the way you told him to.

Some ideas for roleplay are common. You could revert back to childhood and have one person be the patient and one be the doctor or nurse, get a little wild with Tarzan and Jane or grab a ruler and be the sexy professor.

Unique themes that say something about you are great as well. I had a friend tell me that his ultimate fantasy would be having a girl dress up as a nightelf priestess from World of Warcraft. There are probably many people who would echo that, but, personally, the male draenei have

always caught my eye.

In short, don’t think about your fantasy as embarrassing or weird. If you’re with someone who cares about you, they want to hear your fantasies so they can fulfill your desires.

Having revealed your fantasy, let those creative juices flow. Depending on how extreme your ideas are, a trip to Big Lots or Target might be warranted. No matter what costume you choose, face makeup is not recommended because the amount of sweat you’ll produce later. The result could leave you looking like an Oompa Loompa.

To satisfy male fantasies, it might be enough to put on a push-up bra and some stilettos; and for some women a shirtless man and some changes in facial hair may suffice.

The sky is the limit, though, and if you decide to go big budget, there are plenty of online stores willing to help you. Your fun is really never over, because after your private show it’s time for you to take the stage.

Emily Powell is the Flat Hat sex columnist. She owns a preying mantis costume.

Alumnus competes on ‘Jeopardy’

‘JEOPARDY’ from page 6

During Spoeri’s first winning streak on the show, Trebeck even offered contestants advice. Trebeck told Spoeri that though the game covers a wide range of topics, contestants could prepare themselves by studying for specific categories.

Game show fame is not as glitzy as it appears to be. Spoeri said he took vacation days from his job at FAU to appear on ‘Jeopardy.’ Initially, contestants earn \$1,000 for appearing on the show, but much of the money is spent on travel and hotel costs. Upon returning for the Tournament of Champions, however, Spoeri was welcomed with prepaid accommodations and the excitement of reuniting with his former opponents.

Although not altogether active in the ‘Jeopardy’ community, many avid contestants network via J! archive pages online, which each person can



COURTESY PHOTO — JEFF SPOERI
Jeff Spoeri '87 appears on “Jeopardy!”

use to track progress and communicate with one another. Spoeri also cited Facebook,

e-mail and blogs as other resources contestants use to keep in touch. “I’m excited to go back [to the tournament] to meet new people and catch up with acquaintances from shows past,” Spoeri said.

As for advice, Spoeri suggested that potential game show candidates “try and try again” and to “be persistent, be yourself.” He touted good fortune in getting through selections his first time around, and cautions that there are innumerable qualified candidates. ‘Jeopardy’ sifts through the masses and plucks the most interesting and audience-friendly, yet ultimately clever, to air on television.

The “Jeopardy!” Tournament of Champions airs at 7:30 p.m. on ABC. The tournament began Nov. 7 and will conclude tonight.

SUDOKU

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hard

source: krazydad.com

HOROSCOPES

Scorpio: Oct. 23 - Nov. 21



Your inability to distinguish dreams from reality will become an embarrassing problem this Wednesday when you actually show up to class naked.

Sagittarius: Nov. 22 - Dec. 21



It’s time to stop hiding your true feelings and let the world know: You love Dan Piepenbring. Join the support group. We meet on Tuesdays in his room.

Capricorn: Dec. 22 - Jan. 19



The stars suggest hiding the people you kill in the bushes between Millington Hall and Swem Library; no one will ever smell the bodies over the rat stench.

Aquarius: Jan. 20 - Feb. 18



You’ll be further disconcerted with the campus dining halls when you find a cookbook in the University Center entitled “To Serve Man.”

Pisces: Feb. 19 - March 20



That really was Kiefer Sutherland you saw lurking behind the Randolph Complex; turns out, the German House has been passing information to the Fuhrer.

Aries: March 21 - April 19



Sixty-three straight hours of conditioning by Nichol-haters will finally convince you that the president is responsible for AIDS, world hunger and K-Fed.

Taurus: April 20 - May 20



Most people are haunted by ghosts of the dead, but you just had to be unique; you are haunted by the ghosts of the Lodges razed to make way for the UC.

Gemini: May 21 - June 21



It’s only called nude modeling if you’re indoors and stationary; when running through the Sunken Gardens, the police call it indecent exposure.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22



A unique combination of atmospheric pressure and acoustic sensitivity will cause your head to explode when you try out the Blair Hall echo.

Leo: July 23 - Aug. 22



You’ll receive great satisfaction this week when you convince a tourist couple from Kansas that the Cheese Shop is actually the Wren Chapel.

Virgo: Aug. 23 - Sept. 22



Speaking of the Cheese Shop, you may want to stock up on house dressing; the animal that gives it that unique zing is about to become extinct.

Libra: Sept. 23 - Oct. 22



You will find out what it is like to have your own soundtrack when the Accidentals follow you all week.

— by Alex Guillén

REVIEWS

Keys makes a name for herself

By **GENICE PHILIPS**
The Flat Hat

The Queen of Hip Hop, the King of Pop and the Godfather of Soul all have earned their titles in music history, and Alicia Keys is on her way.

Princess of Soul or of R&B? One can't be sure yet, but on her third studio album, "As I Am," extraordinary reigns supreme.

It is an album of universal perspective, touched with personal experiences and emotional reflections. It's a baring-of-the-soul album — a balance of heartbreak and redemption — and Keys uses her eloquence and virtuosity to speak volumes of truth.

With her first single, "No One," Keys transforms into a soulful diva, belting out her love anthem with a ferocity that makes listeners want to seize their significant others. Her defiant, optimistic lyrics, as well as the upbeat piano melody are nicely blended to create a noteworthy track.

Her second single, "Like You'll Never See Me Again," is a dreamy, melancholy track that captures the images of vanishing love and remembrance. This captivating ballad is a beautiful composition, with its melodic groove and light strings as Keys softly begs, "Every time you touch me / Touch me like this is the last time / Promise that

you'll love me / Love me like you'll never see me again."

Keys doesn't forget to pay tribute to the pioneers of funk and soul, with vibrant throwback tracks, such as "Teenage Love Affair" and "Wreckless Love."

The two most soulful tracks on the album, "Teenage Love Affair" is a nostalgic, puppy-love song that features Keys stopping at third base and writing love letters.

"Wreckless Love" is a sexy ditty that begins with soft, sensual tweets and slowly builds into explosive, rupturable shouts surrounded by staccato horns and drums.

Keys collaborates with several other producers and artists, including Kerry "Krucial" Brothers, Linda Perry and John Mayer, demonstrating her versatility in other genres of music.

"Lesson Learned," a tender, contemplative track, combines Keys' serene piano-playing with Mayer's bluesy guitar licks to create a despairing but hopeful sound. Both artists complement each other with Keys' sincere lyrics, "I was burned / but I called it a lesson learned," and Mayer's warm response, "It's alright, It's alright."

Perry, a producer who has worked with artists such as Christina Aguilera and Gwen Stefani, reached out to Keys to create three tracks. On the final track, "Sure Looks to Good to Me," Perry assists Keys



COURTESY PHOTO — J RECORDS

with a bittersweet, U2-dipped song with passionate lyrics of triumph and enlightenment. Keys' uplifting voice blazes the song as she sings: "So don't rain on my parade / Life's to short to waste one day."

Keys takes care to intricately mold and craft her songs on this album; they are less polished than her previous work, but still alluring.

Artistically, "As I Am" is a fresh and genuine album with raw emotion

and a barrage of life situations that are approachable and relatable. It hits the right note for the listener's soul, but it hasn't reached classic status.

A few songs fall short of perfection, but others make up for them. In its entirety, Keys shows experience and growth of the rarest kind and should be receiving a title sooner than we think.

★★★★☆



COURTESY PHOTO — XL RECORDINGS

'Hvarf/Heim' offers both new and old

By **GREG TOPSCHER**
The Flat Hat

No, there aren't a bunch of typos in the title, which means that, yes, this is a review of a non-English speaking band.

In fact, Sigur Rós lead singer Jon Birgisson's lyrics aren't in any real language, but are a sort of well-practiced gibberish. This makes the group, in theory at least, an instrumental band unlike any other. The band's songs rarely dip below the five-minute mark. They sometimes feature a full orchestra, a wind chime, electronic noises, jazzy

See 'HVARF/HEIM' page 9



COURTESY PHOTO — BMG

Backstreet Boys are back in town

By **MATTHEW FALLWELL**
The Flat Hat

After their last album, "Never Gone," proved to be more of the same, I was worried the Backstreet Boys would grow desperate and try something "new." But they surprised me along with the rest of their aging demographic by their commitment to tradition. Their latest release, "Unbreakable," isn't what I would call adventurous, but that's just fine.

I myself am not a fan of the Boys, but an

See BACKSTREET page 9

'45:33' doesn't live up to Murphy's 'Sound of Silver'

By **PHILIP ZAPFEL**
Flat Hat Staff Writer

James Murphy has had quite a year.

The co-founder of dance and electronic record label DFA and sole member of LCD Soundsystem put out a handful of records in 2007. This collection of EPs, remix albums and dance club mixes (including one for the famous London club Fabric) is crowned by his second full-length album, "Sound of Silver," which tops many "best of lists" for the year, including that of this reviewer.

Murphy has earned himself a rare opportunity in today's music business. Nike commissioned LCD Soundsystem to create an album that could sync with the natural patterns of running, the latest in the company's "Nike Plus Original Run" series that



COURTESY PHOTO — DFA RECORDS

includes contributions from Aesop Rock and The Crystal Method.

The "sell-out" cries were heard loud and clear across the internet after Murphy, a respected, independent-minded artist signed this deal with one of the most ubiquitous brands in the world. Sweatshop and culture co-opting concerns aside, the result is still an LCD Soundsystem release, and that alone is cause for excitement.

"45:33" is Murphy's latest release, and following "Sound of Silver," is the best record of his career, not to mention one of the best dance records in years.

"Sound of Silver," though, was almost too good. "45:33" is structured by the nature of the alliance with Nike. None of the tracks (which were originally released on iTunes as a single 45-minute track) truly stand out except for the third section, which is a repeat of "Someone Great" off "Sound of Silver," just without the lyrics. Those familiar with his previous album will simply want to hear the original, lyrics and all. To make things worse, the song following "Someone Great" on "Sound of Silver" was the hands-down song of the year winner "All My Friends," and the average electro-disco section on "45:33" just can't compare.

Maybe because of the difficulty of including meaningful lyrics in an album meant for physical exercise, the vocal pieces on "45:33" are toler-

able at best and downright annoying at worst, as is the case on tracks one and four. Thankfully, the music usually outshines and outlasts the sub-par lyrics. Each track is a seamlessly crafted and contemporary take on muscular, sparse disco, which makes it almost impossible for the listener to sit still.

Acting much like a disc jockey set in which each track overlaps the next by a minute or more, there are no serious tempo or mood changes, an aspect gratefully appreciated by those of us who like to run with music. The album definitely inspires exercise, especially running, where the continuous beat will help you keep a consistent pace and serve as motivation to finish the set. That said, the songs are a bit thin to warrant at-home listening, and will make any LCD Soundsystem fan simply want to play his previous records.

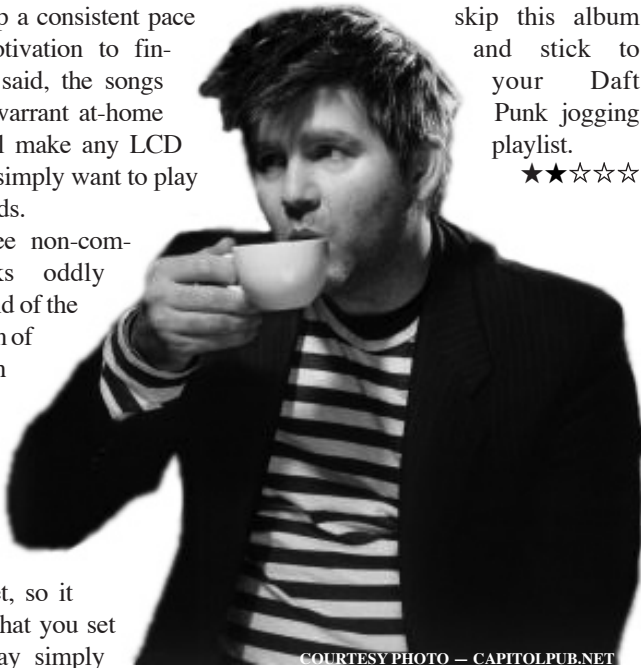
There are three non-commissioned tracks oddly tacked on to the end of the CD-release version of "45:33," and each is of fair-to-poor quality by LCD Soundsystem's standard. They upset the mood of the commissioned running set, so it is recommended that you set your iPods to play simply

the first six tracks if you're truly using the album for exercise purposes.

Hopes were high for "45:33," but it's understandable that Murphy's muse would run dry after such a busy year. While there's no sign here of selling out musically, there's not much to celebrate either.

If you don't have it already, go out and buy "Sound of Silver" — easily the best album of 2007. If you're a rabid fan of LCD Soundsystem, you might want to get "45:33" for your afternoon runs, but if you don't find the need to listen to something programmed for exercise, you can skip this album and stick to your Daft Punk jogging playlist.

★★★★☆



COURTESY PHOTO — CAPITOLPUB.NET

One 'Fight Club' virgin finally reaches the promised land

Beth Sutherland
CRITICAL CONDITION COLUMNIST



No matter how inviting, slow-moving or lingering, I will always miss the bandwagon.

I was one of the last to (reluctantly) purchase an iPod, take an interest in "Project Runway" during the second half of the third season or read "The Lord of the Rings" after the release of the movies.

I have never picked up a copy of "Harry Potter."

The advantage of the retroactive appreciation of a fad, however, is 20/20 hindsight. It's easier to contextualize a phenomenon when you're not living it. What you lose in cultural credibility, you might compensate for in the freshness of your interpretation.

I saw "Fight Club" for the first time a few weeks ago. It blew me away. I promptly headed to the nearest Barnes and Noble and purchased Chuck Palahniuk's gritty cult classic. I guess you could say I was like one of those virgins who has progressed through most of the bases, but never actually engaged in the act itself.

I knew of "Fight Club." It dominated the final

year of the last millennium and followed us into the next. I maintain that it must be one of the five most cited movies of our generation. I also knew about the Palahniuk craze. His stuff was edgy, crisp, avant garde and easy to read. Perfect. I thought I knew the gist of it. I thought it was probably a sub-par action flick, more cool than cerebral.

I mean, honestly, what was I to think? My Kansas high school boasted at least one fight club of its own (perhaps there were more; we all know the first rule of fight club). My burly, swaggering peers, many flunking classes or in constant legal trouble, whispered of a fight club. I rolled my eyes and thought of the hair in the hallway from the last catfight or of that guy (the cute one) in my study hall who got arrested after lunch. Fistfights were what happened when language and brains broke down.

And then, of course, Edward Norton became ineffably cool, and Brad Pitt grew into even more of a sex icon than before. Why was this unassuming, unimposing man so awesome? Why was this pop figure a revolutionary? Norton's filmography list was and remains short enough to have kept him out of my sights for a few years, and I was never a fan of the glamorous braggart.

Still, as I moved through the years, "Fight Club" followed me. As an aspiring novelist, I've

taken many fiction classes and participated in fiction workshops. Before seeing "Fight Club," I was stricken by the fact that so many (not all, but quite a few) young men write in the same hardboiled, shocking, borderline-vulgar style. Why were all the characters swearing, punching and copulating like rabbits? Why were all these rabbits angry with the world? From whence did this new cynicism, this angst come? The new idea had become the degraded — "the trash of the world."

When I (tardily) watched "Donnie Darko" my freshman year of college, I ate crow. The cult classic, I came to realize, deserved its worshipped status. Its depth and quirkiness caught me off guard, and I realized I was going to have to give my generation a bit more credit. So, as Palahniuk pumped out more of his hard-hitting novels, sporting covers that could not but catch my eye, I began to take notice. "The Illusionist," "The Painted Veil" and "Kingdom of Heaven" sparked an interest in the enigmatic Edward Norton. I wondered what he was doing in a Brad Pitt action flick.

Oh, the error of my ways.

My enlightenment — my Tyler's kiss — came on a cold September night, when I finally watched the soap-sporting disc I borrowed from a friend. I was positively glued to the screen; I think my mouth may have hung open a little bit throughout

the film. I gasped, smiled, cringed. It took my breath away. Again, I looked at it as my former snob self. How could such a cerebral movie have such a broad fan-base? And I mean broad — every boy I ever knew, and probably quite a lot of girls.

Though somewhat self-indulgent and perhaps a little sloppy toward the end, Palahniuk speaks poignantly of the concerns of a postmodern world. Though he laments our spiritual desolation and the lack of opportunity for heroism in a competitive, capitalist society, Palahniuk is no revolutionary. White collar yuppies trade their monotony for a dangerous "space monkey" persona. If mind-numbing materialism is bad, equally so is Project Mayhem, which offers a glimpse at the other end of the spectrum.

It is the tension of the modern man, split between a super-civilized desire for order and a craving for the violent savagery of a state of nature. We, Palahniuk suggests, hover in limbo. All that's left is to forge what personal connections we can with those around us and perhaps let off a little steam.

Listen up, romantics: angst is back in vogue — and we've substituted freedom-fighting with human lard-based soap products.

Beth Sutherland is a junior at the College. She would like to join a local Fight Club.

Coming Attractions

— compiled by
Alex Guillén



Jordin Sparks — “Jordin Sparks” (Jive)
This eponymous debut album has “American Idol” winner Jordin Sparks belting out rhythm and blues — but this time, Simon isn’t there to berate her. None of the tracks can live up to her previous single, “Tattoo.” Sparks, however, has a voice that sounds much older than she really is, a skill that outweighs the album’s weak songs. **Nov. 20**



“Beowulf” (Paramount Pictures)
Co-written by fantasy author Neil Gaiman, this adaptation of the ancient English epic “Beowulf” is entirely computer animated — but the quality is so high you might mistake it for the real thing. The film follows the Geat hero Beowulf as he travels to Denmark to rid the people of a monster. **Nov. 16**



“Love in the Time of Cholera” (New Line Cinema)
This adaptation of the 1985 Gabriel García Márquez novel stars Giovanna Mezzogiorno, Javier Bardem and Benjamin Bratt as three people caught in a 50-year love triangle. In Spanish, the word for cholera, cólera, can also mean rage, reflecting García Márquez’s theme of lovesickness as a literal illness analogous to cholera. **Nov. 16**



“Enchanted” (Walt Disney Pictures)
Disney’s latest film blends cartoon and live action as a fairy tale princess is pushed into our reality by her fiancé’s evil stepmother. Princess Giselle lands in New York, where she is taken in by an engaged divorce lawyer. Soon, the Big Apple begins to wear Giselle down, and her presence begins to merge the animated world and ours. **Nov. 21**



“The Mist” (Dimension Films)
“Shawshank Redemption” alum Frank Darabont has adapted Stephen King’s 1980 novella. It follows people trapped in a grocery store by a creepy mist hiding terrifying creatures. Inside the store the situation is much the same; terror has led a religious zealot to declare that a human sacrifice is needed to bring about the end of time. **Nov. 21**

HOLLYWOOD GOSSIP

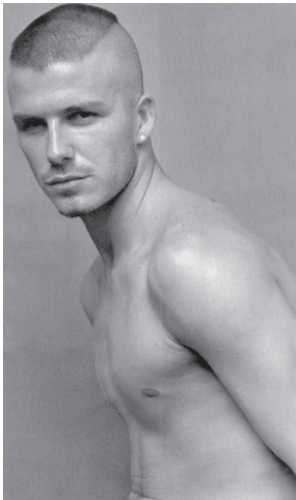
Shut up and drive
Britney Spears has another accomplishment in the clusterfuck that is her life. Driving through a crowd of paparazzi, she smashed a photographer’s foot — again. Oh Brit, you drive us crazy. While leaving a hotel Wednesday, the legendary trainwreck was swarmed. The throng of photographers refused to back off, so the outrageous Brit just blazed on through. We’d been anticipating, but it seems like this girl will never be a woman.



He copped a feel, too
Looks like Angie’s a mess. On her way down the red carpet at the “Beowulf” premiere, Angelina Jolie took one strut too far, splitting her pants down the back. As the seam of her leather Versaces ripped open, exposing her red panties, Brad Pitt swooped in to save the day. He strategically placed his hand over her derriere to provide a little modesty. Later in the night, the true woman stepped on a wad of gum.



A Richie role model
Pint-sized convict Nicole Richie and her rocker baby-daddy Joel Madden may be the new Brangelina. The couple, expecting their first child in just over a month, is throwing a baby shower this weekend. In lieu of gifts, they have requested that guests donate cribs, strollers and stuffed animals to the Richie Madden Children’s Foundation. As Nicole told Diane Sawyer, “I want my child to look up to me and be proud of me.”



Like he needs a reason
David Beckham’s latest endeavor provides him with another excuse to run around half naked. The soccer superstar’s latest career move has signing as the new face of Emporio Armani underwear. A former employer, Armani contacted Becks to gauge his interest in being reunited. The line will launch in December in Emporio Armani stores and in February at Bloomingdale’s and Macy’s. Sounds pretty posh. — by Alice Hahn



COURTESY PHOTO — XL RECORDINGS



Sigur Rós, the atmospheric rock group from Iceland, recently released “Hvarf/Heim,” a two-disc compilation album.

Sigur Rós releases dual-disc compilation, ‘Hvarf/Heim’

‘HVARF/HEIM’ from page 8

horns, power chords and even the occasional silence behind a burgeoning falsetto. Sigur Rós seems willing to try anything in order to better capture its sound, which could be described as the score to the landscape of Iceland. As weird and indie as you might think a band whose songs sound like icebergs melting is, you might just fall in love with the weird and wonderful world of Iceland’s biggest band of all time.

If that doesn’t sound like a particularly impressive feat to you, you’re probably not Icelandic. No instrumental rock band has stretched its genre further than Sigur Rós. The band’s emotional experimentation and haunting, sometimes alien, arrangements are about as hard to place in a musical genre as old-school ring tones.

The group has created a cinematic atmosphere that speaks a new language to the listener, both literally and figuratively. Instruments melt together into long tonal syllables of an

unknowable tongue. Sound dramatic? That’s exactly how I would describe it.

The band’s newest release, “Hvarf/Heim,” is a two-disc album released as a tie-in with the group’s upcoming documentary “Heim” (translation: “At Home”). The documentary will finally unite images of Iceland with their musical equivalent, as it follows Sigur Rós on its 2006 tour of its homeland. As a companion soundtrack, “Hvarf/Heim” does not offer completely new material, but rather is a disc of rarities and unreleased tracks and a disc of more intimate acoustic performances of the group’s most famous songs.

For most bands, this would be a limited endeavor of passing importance. A half-step toward a new album. A tiring exploration of the well known. A safe and unadventurous run through. A reworking of something old. And yet when Sigur Rós gets your full attention, sits you down and grabs you by the ears, it is hard not to melt for Birgisson’s piercing falsetto every time. It is hard to say that this album is any less epic and engrossing

than any of their others just because it doesn’t offer much change.

To say that the opening track, “Salka,” eases you into the album is a bit of an understatement. In fact, some people might see credits rolling as they make their way through all seven minutes. The second track, “Hljómalind,” could easily capture the final scenes of a movie as Sigur Rós cuts through all of Iceland in a sort of slow, panning shot.

Continuing to move backwards, “Í Gaer” really picks up the slack and reaches what one could call the climax of the album, with vibraphones dangling their beautiful music box notes in the air before freight train guitar riffs run it into the background. This epic yet soft spoken anthem represents everything that Sigur Rós is about. In fact, besides being the strongest song on the album, it has been a tour-de-force signature of the band’s live shows for years, without ever appearing on a record until now.

As for the rest of the album, it seems to swipe at the same cinematic greatness, but fails in being all that

recognizable on its own. “Hafsól” has a surprising amount of energy, but that doesn’t save the song from its long, unfocused tour of deep space.

The acoustic tinkering of “Heim,” unfortunately, don’t offer much new music to fans of the original versions. Contrary to what one may first think, these new renditions sound pretty spot on to their original recordings. After all, Sigur Rós is an atmospheric experience, not a jazz super group. Different takes are going to come off with all the same adjectives, unless you count “less epic,” “slightly softer” or “a tiny bit more intimate” as ground-breaking descriptives.

While still waiting for the band’s newest full-length to come out, “Hvarf/Heim” does well to feed the appetite of the starving Sigur Rós fan and would be a great introduction to someone just discovering the band. Considering that some of the unreleased material isn’t particularly strong and without much new material, even Sigur Rós cannot blow us away with something we’ve pretty much heard before.

★★★★☆

Backstreet Boys return with ‘Unbreakable,’ one fewer member

BACKSTREET from page 8

incriminating VHS of me belting out “As Long As You Love Me” at a karaoke parlor has kept me looking over my shoulder, anticipating such an accusation since high school. I popped in “Unbreakable” with equally horrifying visions dancing before my eyes. Strangely enough, the atrocity I prophesied never came true. Despite the urging of the gods, desperate to steer me from such folly, I have to admit — I enjoyed this album.

Before you discard this paper and show it the meaning of being lonely, allow me a chance to explain. “Unbreakable” isn’t great, but it’s not bad, either. It’s shallow, easy-going, decently written and unimaginative pop music.

“Unbreakable” would be better named “Unambitious.” If I didn’t know better, I’d say these tracks were the rejects from earlier projects. But, as an esteemed reviewer, I refuse to jump to such wild conclusions. Plus, recycling isn’t necessarily a bad thing, as earlier Backstreet albums adeptly brainwashed a nation of pre-teen girls into wanting it “that way.”

If you’re looking for an album showcasing exceptional musical ability and penned with meaningful lyrics, you’re definitely barking up the wrong tree in the wrong forest with this one, but if you want more mindless pop from the Boys, you

might be in luck.

In an age in which so many artists are busy trying to branch out, expand their fan-base and grow artistically, it’s a welcome relief to see the Backstreet Boys riding the gravy train that brought them success in their youth, even though most of these guys are in their late 30s now.

My initial plan for reviewing this album involved taking long and necessary therapeutic breaks between every track. “Any Other Way” single-handedly undermined my plan, and robbed me of my self-respect.

The song, as absurdly catchy as it is produced, encouraged sing-alongs in the way only a Top 40 hit can. I absolutely loved it. As my roommate watched in horror, I clicked the repeat button in iTunes and let the dreamy vocals wash over me for a solid 15 minutes.

Thankfully, “Helpless When She Smiles” brought me to my senses. My ears did not bleed, but the lyrics, saturated with powerfully stale metaphors, had me teetering on the verge. Who couldn’t be moved by these words? “I’m a house of cards in a hurricane / A reckless ride in the pouring rain / She cuts me and the pain is all I want to feel.” Listening to their melodramatic cries, I actually felt their pain. It literally hurt to listen to this song. If that isn’t art of the highest caliber, I don’t know what is.

“Love Will Keep You Up

All Night” is a quintessentially mediocre pop anthem. The vocals are a shoddy emulation of Bryan Adams and the musical arrangement is truly the result of an unholy union between Daniel Powder and a coked-up Lindsay Lohan. It’s that bad.

For those long nights when you yearn to lose yourself in a generic pop ballad, they’ve included “Panic” and “Inconsolable.” Neither song is anything special, but they each have a delicate balance of synthesized drums, lovesick self-loathing and unidentifiable pop sound effects. They’re worth listening to only if you’re a longtime fan.

A little ring structure links “Another Sunday Afternoon” with the album’s intro track, but don’t feel bad if you fail to notice: I’m pretty sure the Boys themselves didn’t catch on until the MySpace comments started rolling in. I analyzed their cryptic words, but failed to see what sort of message they were trying to communicate. The mystery hasn’t kept me up all night — yet.

The song is surprisingly well-written and flirts with actual depth. The words are interesting, and the rhythm is deliciously infectious. It made me wonder why they didn’t just release an EP containing only this and “Any Other Way” and hope no one would notice it was 40 minutes shorter than a normal outing.

★★★★☆



COURTESY PHOTO — THEBACKSTREETBOYS.COM

The Backstreet Boys are back again, this time without former member Kevin Richardson. The remaining four singers recently released the group’s fifth record, “Unbreakable.”



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SPORTS IN BRIEF

WOMEN'S SOCCER
Tribe opens NCAA tourney
against Georgetown

For the 15th time in the past 16 years, the Tribe has qualified for NCAA Tournament play. Despite an early exit from the CAA tournament, the team secured an at-large bid to NCAA tourney and will open play in Charlottesville tonight at 7:30 against Georgetown. After a 14-4-2 season in which they secured the CAA regular season title, the College will bring a defense ranked third nationally in both average goals against (0.433) and shutout percentage (0.65) to a competitive regional that includes national powerhouses UCLA and Portland. If they survive Georgetown in the opening round match, the Tribe will advance to play the winner of the region's top seed, the University of Virginia, and Loyola College (Md.) Sunday.

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Shaver signs highly touted
recruit Quinn McDowell

The Tribe bolstered their 2008-2009 roster with the signing of Archbishop Moeller High School guard Quinn McDowell, head coach Tony Shaver announced Wednesday. As a junior, McDowell led his high school team to an Ohio state championship, averaging 15.1 points and 4.6 rebounds per game, while shooting 52 percent for the season. In the announcement, Shaver hailed McDowell's mental assets, stating that he "has that rare trait that allows him to make those around him better."

CROSS COUNTRY
Men, women race in Bronx
for league championships

The College's men and women will travel to New York City this Saturday to take part in their respective regional championships. The women will attempt to win their first-ever ECAC championship after finishing second a year ago. The men will look to defend their IC4A title with a good showing at Van Cortland Park. Because of their qualification for the NCAA Championships in Terre Haut, Ind., which takes place Monday, the Tribe will send their ninth through 20th-ranked runners to New York while their top eight journey to Indiana to compete in the NCAA Championship.

—By Matt Poms

SCOREBOARD

SWIMMING AND DIVING
11/15 @ U. Md. (Day 1) —
Men — 3rd; women — 2nd
MEN'S BASKETBALL
11/15 @ N.C. State — L, 66-47

SCHEDULE

Fri., Nov. 16
WOMEN'S SOCCER
vs. Georgetown — 7:30 p.m.
NCAA tourney at Charlottesville
VOLLEYBALL
vs. James Madison — 5 p.m.
CAA tourney at Newark, Del.
MEN'S SWIMMING
@ Terrapin Cup —
College Park, Md.
WOMEN'S SWIMMING
@ Terrapin Cup —
College Park, Md.
Sat., Nov. 17
MEN'S SWIMMING
@ Terrapin Cup —
College Park, Md.
WOMEN'S SWIMMING
@ Terrapin Cup —
College Park, Md.
WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY
@ ECAC Championships —
Bronx, N.Y.
MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY
@ IC4A Championships —
Bronx, N.Y.
FOOTBALL
@ Richmond — 12 p.m.
VOLLEYBALL
vs. TBA — if Tribe advances
CAA Tourney at Newark, Del.
Sun., Nov. 18
VOLLEYBALL
vs. TBA — if Tribe advances
CAA Tourney at Newark, Del.

FOOTBALL PREVIEW: RICHMOND



ALEX HAGLUND — THE FLAT HAT
Junior quarterback Jake Phillips gestures downfield during the Tribe's 55-34 loss to James Madison University Saturday.

Tribe vies for I-64 trophy
College takes on Richmond in 'oldest rivalry in the South'

By MILES HILDER
Flat Hat Assoc. Sports Editor

The Tribe will make its biennial trek up I-64 Saturday for the College's 117th meeting against the University of Richmond. The Spiders (8-2, 6-1 CAA) will be looking to capture their third-straight victory over the Tribe, a feat that Richmond has not accomplished since 1971 to 1973.

The College (4-6, 1-5 CAA) is seeking its first win in four games, finishing up a grueling stretch that has seen the Tribe battle three teams in the FCS top 25. Richmond enters Saturday's contest ranked seventh in the nation.

Following a disappointing defensive performance against James Madison University in which the Dukes rushed for 371 yards, the Tribe will have its hands full defending the running game again this weekend. But unlike the speed-based option attack of James

Madison, Richmond's primary rushing threat comes in the form of powerful running back Tim Hightower.

"[Hightower] is an outstanding back, a big, strong, hard running back," Head Coach Jimmye Laycock said. "This is more of a traditional tailback running game, so it'll be a little different types of schemes that we'll be using here probably than what we did against James Madison. Hopefully we'll tackle a little better, hopefully we'll get more people to the football."

Hightower will face a Tribe defense that may be missing starters Adrian Tracy and Robert Livingston, as both suffered injuries against James Madison. If unable to play, the two sophomores will join another key Tribe defender, junior linebacker Michael Pigram, on the inactive list.

Offensively, the Tribe has a chance to become only the eighth team in Laycock's 28-year tenure at the College to average 30 points per game for the season. The feat

will be accomplished if the Tribe scores at least 31 points against the Spiders, no easy task considering Richmond has allowed opponents to reach that total in just three games all season.

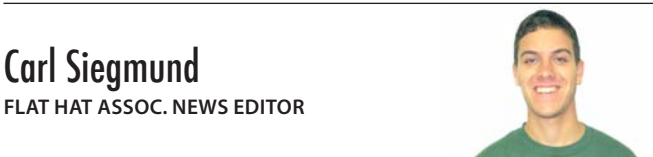
Regardless, the College will leave everything on the field this weekend in the pursuit of heading into the offseason on a high note and avenging their recent losses to the Spiders.

"It was tough going up [to Richmond] two years ago, and two years ago we ended the season with four straight losses," junior quarterback Jake Phillips said. "It was tough for the seniors, and it was tough for the returning guys because it was a rough offseason, so we're definitely going to try to go out on a winning note and try to get a little something positive going into the offseason."

"This is the last game for this team and these seniors," Phillips said. "Pretty much this is our Super Bowl right now."

HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE

Boykin braves scout team for 'love of game'



Carl Siegmund
FLAT HAT ASSOC. NEWS EDITOR

Senior wide receiver Obie Boykin will never forget his best offensive performance, even if his stats weren't recorded for posterity. "I had like five or six catches for 70 yards," he said. "I tore it up during fall camp this year in a scrimmage between the scout team and travel squad."

After joining the Tribe as an un-recruited walk-on quarterback in 2004, Boykin was moved to safety and finally wide receiver. As a member of the scout team, Boykin is more than just a tackling dummy. His job, which is strictly a Monday through Thursday affair, involves mimicking opposing offenses and defenses for the team's starters. When the rest of the team travels to away games or spends Friday night in a local hotel before a home game, Boykin stays in his dorm.

Tomorrow, when Tribe football goes on the road to play its season finale against the University of Richmond, Boykin

will stay in Williamsburg to help out with his fraternity's philanthropy. Boykin does have the option of wearing his jersey on the sidelines for away games, but under the condition that he provides his own transportation.

"It's tough when you put in the time and you know you're just as good as the players playing," Boykin said.

Faint hopes that someday he would run a meaningful receiving route during a game motivated the Surry, Va. native to keep practicing.

"I was told if you do well and progress, then you will get noticed," he said. "I thought as a senior I would travel."

Prior to this year's homecoming game against the University of Massachusetts, injuries to some of the Tribe's receivers increased Boykin's chances of playing. Due to the depleted receiving corps, Boykin practiced with the first team all week, but in the end was not named to the travel squad. It was the closest he had come in four years.

"One of the reasons I stayed until the end of this season is that you don't play college athletics unless you love the game," Boykin said.

Carl Siegmund may be e-mailed at crsieg@wm.edu.

VOLLEYBALL: CAA TOURNAMENT PREVIEW

Tribe in CAA tourney in Hill's final season

By MAGGIE REEB
Flat Hat Staff Writer



COURTESY PHOTO — WILLIAM & MARY SPORTS INFORMATION
Head Coach Debbie Hill

Led by veteran Head Coach Debbie Hill, the fourth-seeded Tribe (14-14, 8-6) takes on the fifth-seed James Madison University Dukes (16-12, 7-7) in the CAA quarterfinals this Friday.

Though the Tribe leads 38-30 in lifetime matches between the two schools, the Dukes swept the Tribe 3-0 in October during the regular season. However, his loss has not changed the team's confidence level.

"We're not nervous at all, we're actually pretty excited," Head Coach Debbie Hill said. "The last time we played JMU was the worst match of the entire year, so if that's what they are expecting they are in for a big surprise. We have been working hard and have improved greatly since that game."

As a team, the College's squad has racked up impressive statistics. The Tribe ranks third in digs (18.38) and fourth in blocks (2.46). Individually, several members of the team stand out. Earlier this week, freshman Erin Skipper was named CAA rookie of the week for the second time this year following strong performances against the University

of Delaware and University of Towson. She currently leads the Tribe in kills and ranks ninth in the CAA. Fellow freshman Ginny Bray is third in the league in blocks, while junior Molly Bohman ranks fifth. On attack, junior Kim Mount ranks third in the CAA in assists.

This will be the last CAA championship campaign for Hill, who will retire after this season.

"Right now I'm just looking forward to the challenge of this upcoming game," Hill said. "I don't think it will be my last match; I think we have a great shot at the championships."

Hill boasts a 552-392 (.585) lifetime record, and claimed 56 consecutive league wins during her career at the College. Under her watch, 29 players were named all-conference and four were honored as player of the year.

Hill is confident that the program will be in good hands after she leaves.

"[I have] a knowledge that the team will carry on the way we have been, continuing to work hard and become even better than we are now," Hill said. "I think everyone when they leave expects the person who comes behind them will be a phenomenal coach and continue doing things the right way."

MEN'S SOCCER: TOWSON 2, TRIBE 1

College
falls in
1st round

Tigers knock Tribe
out of CAA tourney

By CHRIS WEIDMAN
Flat Hat Staff Writer

The Tribe's season came to a sudden close Tuesday, as they lost 2-1 to the Towson University Tigers in the opening round of the CAA tournament.

After the College gave up an early goal, Tribe senior midfielder Doug Ernst knotted the game at 1-1 early in the second half, only to have the Tigers strike again in the 87th minute to secure the victory.

"In the end, it was a game that could have gone either way," Head Coach Chris Norris said. "We played very, very well. [We] deserved more. Anytime you are in tight games, anything can happen."

Ernst recorded his second goal of the season in the 51st minute following a through ball played by freshman midfielder Ian Stowe.

"I made a run in behind the defense," Ernst said. "Ian Stowe played a great through ball over top. I played it off of my head and chased the ball down. The goalie came out and I popped the ball over him into the goal." Norris said that Stowe was inserted into the second half line-up to utilize his ability to play penetrating passes.

The Tigers' early lead came off of a corner kick in the third minute that midfielder Nino Mangione gathered and rifled off of the right goal post and into the net behind Tribe redshirt freshman goalie Andrew McAdams. The College battled back in the first half, outshooting Towson 8-5, but could not manage an equalizer in the opening 45 minutes.

"We played pretty well overall," Ernst said. "We were attacking the entire game and had most of the possessions. We just didn't score [enough] goals."

Towson's game-winning goal came in the 87th minute when Tigers' midfielder Pat Healey caroled McAdams' clearing attempt and dribbled down the left side before sending a cross to midfielder Matt Beckman who shot the ball past a diving McAdams for his fifth goal of the season.

The Tribe sent every player forward for a final corner kick with under 30 seconds left. McAdams managed to direct a shot on net off of a cross by sophomore forward Price Thomas, but Chiles grabbed the attempt, ending the College's season.

The game against Towson was the first playoff game for the College since 2004, when the Tribe fell to Old Dominion University in the opening round.



ALEX HAGLUND — THE FLAT HAT
Senior midfielder Doug Ernst